



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Vrakas Proposes Employee Contribution to Retirement Fund**

WAUKESHA – Today, Waukesha County Executive Dan Vrakas introduced his proposal requiring Waukesha County employees make a contribution toward their retirement account in the Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS). Beginning in 2007, his proposal would make all new-hire, non-represented employees responsible for contributing 20% (about 1% of their salary) toward their WRS contribution.

Currently, all Waukesha County employees pay the full employee share of their WRS contribution (about 5% of their salary) for the first 6 months of employment.

Waukesha County conducted an informal poll of county governments and could not find any other county in the State of Wisconsin that requires employees to pay a portion of their WRS contribution over the life of their career.

While the savings to taxpayers will be minimal for several years, eventually the county will realize significant savings on an annual basis. After all of the affected positions turn over, the change will result in an annual savings of about \$280,000 (in 2006 dollars).

Vrakas introduced an ordinance to the County Board that will make this retirement change for all new employees that are not represented by a union. State law requires the county to negotiate any changes to WRS contributions with their employee unions for represented employees.

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